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READER'S DIGEST
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Senator Moynihan's Spy Story

The Soviets routinely listen in on the conversations of millions of Americans. Asks the Senator from New York: Isn't it time we did something about this violation of our constitutional rights?

Condensed from
LETTER TO NEW YORK
SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN (D., N.Y.)

WHEN I WAS NAMED U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in 1975, Nelson Rockefeller, then Vice President, took me into a back room of his suite in the old State, War and Navy Building and told me a secret: the Soviets, he said, would be listening to every telephone call I made from our mission or from our suite in the Waldorf Towers. They had increasingly sophisticated equipment for doing this in their mission on 67th Street, in their Glen Cove compound on Long Island and, most importantly, in a new 19-story building they had built on the high ground of Riverdale in the Bronx, from which their intercepts swept the whole of Manhattan.

Rockefeller had just finished his report as chairman of the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States (Ronald Reagan was a member). Wild charges were being made against the CIA—and some not entirely wild. Still, the CIA was never involved in "large-scale spying on American citizens," or grossly "engaged in illegal wiretaps," as its severest critics charged. But the Soviets most assuredly *were*, and Rockefeller's report warned that "Americans have a right to be uneasy, if not seriously disturbed, that the personal and business activities they discuss freely over the telephone could be recorded and analyzed by agents of foreign powers."

This report was published that same year. But no one in Washington seemed to care that we were being listened to.

I did. Six months later, a member of the mission staff came into my office, closed the door and reported that Arkady Shevchenko, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, had told an American in the Secretariat he wished to defect. Impossible. Shevchenko was the ranking Russian at the U.N. It would be the highest-level defection in Soviet history. A trap? We would have to find out—and we did. *And we did not use the telephone.* I took to meeting people at hockey games in Madison Square Garden.

Anyway, Shevchenko did defect, and last year, ten years later, his book, *Breaking With Moscow* (Alfred A. Knopf), confirmed that in Glen Cove alone the escalation of electronic surveillance was striking. "When I first came to the United States in 1958," he wrote, "there were three or four KGB communications technicians in the attic of the main building. By 1973, the specialists in intercepting radio signals numbered at least a dozen, and a large greenhouse had to be commandeered to store their equipment. The rooftops of Glen Cove, the apartment building in River-

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